



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mayor, Police Chief Testify at Legislative Hearing in Support of Rep. Canessa's Public Safety Bill

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Today, New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang and New Bedford Police Chief Ronald E. Teachman testified before the Massachusetts Public Safety Committee in support of legislation, filed by State Representative Stephen R. Cannessa that aims to establish a Public Safety Building Program for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"This bill aims to establish and maintain the public safety buildings and facilities across the Commonwealth," states Rep. Canessa. "In order to protect the residents of my district communities and the state at large, we need to have efficient resources and facilities for our public safety officials and this bill intends to accomplish just that."

The proposed Public Safety Building Program would fund and oversee the construction or renovation of police and or fire stations in cities and towns across the state. A Public Safety Building Authority, under the direction of the Office of the State Treasurer, would review all applications for grants, as well as supervise and administer the use of the grants. In an effort to meet the statewide need to modernize public safety facilities, this program would award \$30 million in funding annually for five years beginning in fiscal year 2008.

"The establishment of a state Public Safety Building Authority is essential for New Bedford to rehabilitate and or construct new police, fire, and emergency medical facilities that offers improved public access and advances the daily operations of our city's public safety services. I fully support this legislation and was happy to testify on behalf of the citizens of New Bedford and advocate for the return of our tax dollars to fund local initiatives that will directly improve the quality of life in our city," said Mayor Lang.

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